



Bernard C. "Jack" Young

President

Baltimore City Council

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The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller

The Honorable Michael E. Busch

Maryland State House

100 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

As you are aware, Baltimore City is going through a very difficult period in its history, with Mayor Catherine Pugh taking a leave of absence for health reasons while simultaneously facing serious allegations into her conduct as an elected official. I am writing to you today to ask for your leadership in preventing our City from suffering insult on top of this grave injury.

Senate Bill 883 and House Bill 990 – collectively known as the "MEDCO bill" – would be the final nail in the coffin of Pimlico Race Course, and would lay the groundwork for the Canadian Stronach Group (TSG) to move the Preakness from Baltimore. TSG's Chief Operating Officer Tim Ritvo has made his company's intentions clear, writing Governor Hogan on February 8, 2019, that "the Pimlico facility has reached the end of its useful life as a major event venue."

As Baltimore's Ex-officio Mayor, I am determined that the City of Baltimore will not lose the Preakness on my watch. The City cannot afford to lose the nearly \$50 million economic impact provided by the Preakness. Therefore, I strongly oppose the MEDCO bill and implore you to not pass this legislation, which will land yet another brutal blow on Maryland's leading city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and thank you in advance for standing with Baltimore during this challenging time by tabling SB 883 and HB 990. While these are my first few days in this temporary position, you both know that I am dedicated to this City and will passionately defend it. I am asking you to please stand with me.

I pledge to you that I will bring my team to the table to negotiate an agreement that benefits all parties involved without unduly damaging any stakeholder. Most importantly, we can, and should, come together to advance the interests of our entire state.

Sincerely,

Bernard C. "Jack" Young

Ex-Officio Mayor of Baltimore